

CLAIMS

1. A method of accessing service resource items for use in respect of setting up bearer channels through a switched telecommunications system, said method including the steps of:

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- (a) -- provisioning at least one server connected to a computer network with a plurality of service resource items that are thereafter locatable on said computer network by corresponding known URIs, said computer network being logically distinct from the telecommunications system, and said service resource items relating to setup control for bearer channels through said telecommunications system with each said service resource item being associated with a respective predetermined code, said predetermined codes being distinct from said URIs and identifying end-point entities for said bearer channels;
 - (b) -- providing a mapping between each said predetermined code and the said known URI of the service resource item associated with that predetermined code; and
 - (c) -- utilising a said predetermined code to access a corresponding said service resource item by using said mapping to determine the URI corresponding to that resource item and then using this URI to access the service resource item over said computer network.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said URIs are derivable from their corresponding said predetermined codes by manipulation according to a function specified by said mapping.

25 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said URIs are derivable from their corresponding said predetermined codes by look up in an association table associating said predetermined codes and URIs according to said mapping.

30 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said association table is held on at least one database server connected to said computer network, step (c) involving accessing said database server over the computer network to determine the said URI corresponding to the said predetermined code.

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5. A method according to claim 4, wherein said at least one database server is provided by a DNS-type distributed database system in which said URIs are held in records associated with respective names, herein referred to as domain names, by which the records can be retrieved, step (c) involving translating said predetermined code into a corresponding said domain name and using this domain name to retrieve the URI of the required service resource item from said DNS-type distributed database system.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least two said service resource items are located at the same URI, the said predetermined codes of these service resource items including respective relative-resource-identifier values that are used at the server holding the service resource items to identify the required resource item amongst the service resource items at the same URI.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said switched telecommunications system is a telephone system and said predetermined codes comprise numbers from at least one of the following categories:

- the telephone number of the calling party;
- the telephone number of the called party.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said switched telecommunication system is a telephone system, at least some of said predetermined codes being called-party telephone numbers and serving to retrieve service resource items that are the current telephone numbers of the called parties.

9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one said service resource items is service logic which is executed by the corresponding server upon being accessed with the result of this execution being returned to the accessing entity for use in bearer-channel setup control.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one said service resource items is downloadable service data which upon being accessed is downloaded to the accessing entity for use thereby in bearer-channel setup control.
- 5 11. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one said service resource items is downloadable service logic which upon being accessed is downloaded to the accessing entity for execution in bearer-channel setup control.
- 10 12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said computer network is generally accessible to users of the telecommunications system.
13. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said computer network is the Internet.
- 15 14. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said switched telecommunication network is a PSTN.
- 20 15. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein said telecommunication system is a private system including a PABX with which said service control system is associated, and wherein said computer network is a LAN.
16. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said URIs are URLs and/or URNs, and said server is an HTTP server.

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